

In the Matter of



DECISION

Case #: MOP - 203583

### PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed on September 22, 2021, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5), and Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Public Assistance Collection Unit regarding Medical Assistance (MA), a hearing was held on November 18, 2021, by telephone. The record was held open for 14 days for the Petitioner to provide additional evidence of wages. No additional evidence was submitted. The record closed on December 1, 2021.

The issue for determination is whether the agency correctly seeks to recover an overissuance of MA/BC+ benefits from the Petitioner as follows:

| Claim Number: | 10/01/2018 to 10/31/2018 | \$ 1.43   |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Claim Number: | 12/01/2018 to 09/30/2019 | \$4206.71 |
| Claim Number: | 12/01/2018 to 09/30/2019 | \$ 653.23 |
| Claim Number: | 10/01/2019 to 02/29/2020 | \$1178.16 |
| Claim Number: | 10/01/2019 to 02/29/2020 | \$ 969.83 |
| Claim Number: | 01/01/2019 to 07/31/2019 | \$1768.70 |
| Claim Number: | 04/01/2018 to 09/30/2018 | \$1722.93 |
| Claim Number: | 10/01/2017 to 10/31/2017 | \$ 288.68 |
| Claim Number: | 08/01/2019 to 09/30/2019 | \$1409.10 |
| Claim Number: | 02/01/2018 to 03/31/2018 | \$1646.99 |
| Claim Number: | 05/01/2017 to 09/30/2017 | \$3593.74 |
| Claim Number: | 05/01/2016 to 07/31/2016 | \$2747.63 |

Total \$20,187.13

There appeared at that time the following persons:

PARTIES IN INTEREST:

Petitioner:



# Respondent:

Department of Health Services 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651 Madison, WI 53703

By:

Public Assistance Collection Unit P.O. Box 8938 Madison, WI 53708-8938

### ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

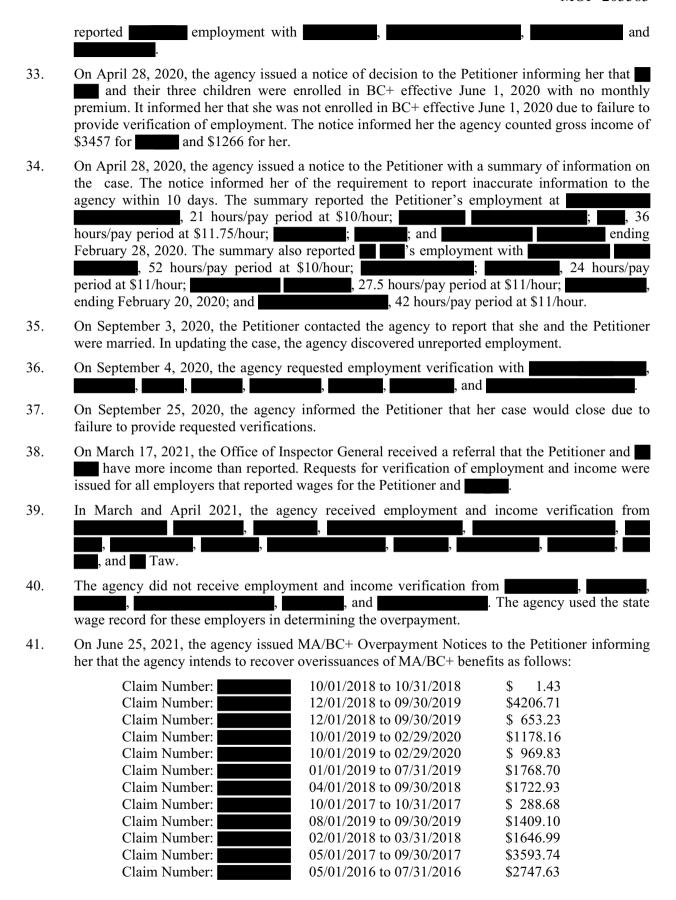
|                  | Debra Bursinger Division of Hearings and Appeals  |  |  |  |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|
| FINDINGS OF FACT |   |  |  |  |
| 1.               | Petitioner (CARES #  ) is a resident of Milwaukee County.   |  |  |  |
| 2.               | On April 29, 2016, the Petitioner completed a Six-Month Report Form (SMRF). She reported that she resided with and their children. She reported employment with 17.36 hours/pay period at \$9.76/hour.  |  |  |  |
| 3.               | On May 2, 2016, a notice of decision was issued to the Petitioner informing her that she, and their three children were enrolled in BC+ with no monthly premium effective June 1, 2016. The notice informed her that this determination was based on gross household income of \$1,100.54 from her employment with the requirement to report to the agency by the 10th day of the next month if her gross household income exceeded \$2025.   |  |  |  |
| 4.               | On May 24, 2016, the Petitioner reported new employment with provided her first pay statement.  |  |  |  |
| 5.               | On June 2, 2016, the agency received a letter from that the Petitioner's employment would end on May 31, 2016.  |  |  |  |
| 6.               | On July 27, 2016, the Petitioner completed a health care renewal. She reported employment with and She provided pay statements.   |  |  |  |
| 7.               | On July 28, 2016, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that her three children were enrolled in BC+ effective September 1, 2016 with no monthly premium. The notice further informed her that she and were not enrolled in BC+ effective September 1, 2016 due to income exceeding the program limit. The notice informed her that this determination was based on gross household income of \$2,483.76 from her employment at and and and and and and and and and are the notice also informed her of the requirement to report to the agency by the 10th day of the next month if her gross monthly income exceeded \$3078. |  |  |  |
| 8.               | On August 12, 2016, the Petitioner submitted an employer verification that her employment at had ended.   |  |  |  |
| 9.               | On March 2, 2017, the Petitioner submitted a SMRF. She reported employment at 52 hours/pay period at \$9.75/hour and 55 hours/pay period at \$9.95/hour. She reported employment with 65 ended February 19, 2017.   |  |  |  |
| 10.              | On March 3, 2017, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that and their three children were enrolled in BC+ effective April 1, 2017, with no monthly premium. The notice informed her that she was not enrolled in BC+ effective April 1, 2017 due to   |  |  |  |

income exceeding the program limit. The notice informed her that this was based on gross household income of \$2,483.76 from her employment. The notice further informed her of the requirement to report to the agency by the 10th day of the next month if her gross monthly household income exceeded \$3081.

- On March 17, 2017, the Petitioner submitted a renewal. She reported employment with and and and are submitted and are submitted a renewal.
- 12. On March 20, 2017, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that she, and their three children were enrolled in BC+ effective March 1, 2017 with no monthly premium. The notice informed her that this was based on gross monthly household income of \$2305.34 from her employment. The notice also informed her of the requirement to report to the agency by the 10th day of the next month if her gross monthly household income exceeded \$2398.33.
- 14. On September 22, 2017, the Petitioner reported income errors in a notice issued to her on September 15, 2017. The agency had counted income as weekly instead of biweekly. The agency updated the case and on September 25, 2017, the agency issued a notice of decision that and their three children were enrolled in BC+ effective November 1, 2017, with no monthly premium. The notice informed her that she was enrolled in BC+ Extension effective November 1, 2017 with a monthly premium of \$152.
- On December 22, 2017, the Petitioner applied for FS benefits. She reported employment with and and On December 29, 2017, the Petitioner provided employment and income verification for those employers.
- On January 2, 2018, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that she, and their three children were enrolled in BC+ effective February 1, 2018 with no monthly premium. The notice informed her that this was based on gross household income of \$2712.39 for December 2017 and \$1317.95 beginning January 1, 2017 from her employment. The notice also informed her of the requirement to report to the agency by the 10th day of the next month if her gross monthly household income exceeded \$2050.
- 17. On March 1, 2018, the Petitioner submitted employer verification from and for herself and for herself.
- 18. On March 5, 2018, the Petitioner submitted employer verification that her final day of employment with was January 25, 2018.
- 19. On April 29, 2018, the Petitioner submitted a SMRF. She reported no changes in employment or income.
- 21. On May 22, 2018, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that she, and their three children were enrolled in BC+ effective July 1, 2018 with no monthly premium. The notice informed her that this determination was based on gross monthly household income of \$2982.05 from her employment with and and . The notice

if her gross monthly household income exceeded \$2781.92. 22. On September 26, 2018, the Petitioner submitted pay statements from and 23. On December 6, 2018, the Petitioner completed a renewal. She reported a household of five. She reported her employment with and On December 7, 2018, the agency issued a notice to the Petitioner with a summary of the 24. information on her case. The notice informed the Petitioner to report any inaccurate information in the summary to the agency within 10 days. The summary indicated the Petitioner was , 47.12 hours/pay period at \$10/hour and employed with , 58 hours/pay period at \$11/hour. 25. On January 14, 2019, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that and their three children were enrolled in BC+ effective February 1, 2019 with no monthly premium. It informed her that she remained in a BC+ Extension. The Petitioner submitted pay statements from . On January 15, 2019, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that she would receive FS benefits beginning January 14, 2019. The notice informed her that this determination was based on reported household income of \$2384.78/month from her employment at The notice also informed her of the requirement to report to the agency if her household's gross monthly income exceeded \$2451.67/month. On June 17, 2019, the Petitioner completed a renewal. She submitted employment verifications 26. , , and On August 15, 2019, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that 27. she and her three children were enrolled in BC+ effective August 1, 2019 with no monthly premium. It also informed her that was not enrolled in BC+ effective August 1, 2019 due to income exceeding the program limit. The notice informed her that this determination was based on gross monthly household income of \$1249.67 from her employment at and seemployment at seemployme . The notice also informed household's gross monthly income exceeded \$2514.17. On August 27, 2019, the agency received a wage discrepancy alert. Based on wages reported to 28. the state, employment verifications were requested for for the Petitioner and 29. On September 16, 2019, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that her family's healthcare benefits would end effective October 1, 2019, due to failure to provide verification of employment. 30. On October 15 and 18, 2019, the Petitioner provided employment verifications. 31. On October 25, 2019, the agency issued a notice of decision to the Petitioner informing her that and their three children were enrolled in BC+ effective October 1, 2019 with no monthly premium. It informed her that she was not enrolled in BC+ effective October 1, 2019 due to income exceeding the program limit. The notice informed her that the agency counted gross household income of \$5390/month for and \$2262/month for her from her employment and semployment. On April 27, 2020, the Petitioner applied for FS benefits. She reported a household of three. She 32. reported employment with and and / and

further informed her of the requirement to report to the agency by the 10th day of the next month



### **DISCUSSION**

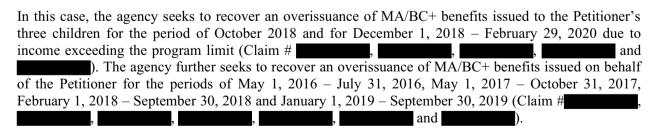
MA overpayment recovery is authorized by Wis. Stat., §49.497(1):

- (a) The department may recover any payment made incorrectly for benefits provided under this subchapter or s. 49.665 if the incorrect payment results from any of the following:
- 1. A misstatement or omission of fact by a person supplying information in an application for benefits under this subchapter or s. 49.665.
- 2. The failure of a Medical Assistance or Badger Care recipient or any other person responsible for giving information on the recipient's behalf to report the receipt of income or assets in an amount that would have affected the recipient's eligibility for benefits.
- 3. The failure of a Medical Assistance or Badger Care recipient or any other person responsible for giving information on the recipient's behalf to report any change in the recipient's financial or nonfinancial situation or eligibility characteristics that would have affected the recipient's eligibility for benefits or the recipient's cost-sharing requirements.

See also the BC+ Handbook, § 28.2. The overpayment must be caused by the client's error. Overpayments caused by agency error are not recoverable.

An overpayment is determined as follows: "If the case was ineligible for BC+, recover the amount of medical claims paid by the state and/or the capitation rate. Use the ForwardHealth interChange data from the Total Benefits Paid by Medicaid Report(s). Deduct any amount paid in premiums (for each month in which an overpayment occurred) from the overpayment amount." Handbook, § 28.4.2.

In 2016, the income limit for a household of one was \$990/month or \$11,880/year; for a household of four, the limit was \$2025/month or \$24,300/year. In 2017, the income limit for a household of one was \$1005/month or \$12,060/year; for a household of four, the limit was \$2,050/month or \$24,600/year. For 2018, the income limit for a household of one was \$1011.67/month or \$12,140/year; for a household of four, the limit was \$2091.67/month or \$25,100/year. For 2019, the income limit for a household of two was \$1409.17/month or \$16,910/year; for a household of three, the income limit was \$1,777.50/month or \$21,330/year. For 2020, the income limit for a household of three was \$1,810/month or \$21,720/year. See Wis. Stat. §49.45(23) and the BC+ Handbook, § 50.1 for the limit. BC+ recipients are required to report if income in a month rises above that level. Handbook, § 27.3. The report must be made by the tenth of the next month, and BC+ will close the following month if income remains above the limit.



### Claims for an overissuance of benefits to the Petitioner's children

| The agency asserts that the household income for the Petitioner's household exceeded the income limit for the periods of October 2018 and December 1, 2018 – February 29, 2020. During those periods, the agency issued benefits on behalf of the Petitioner's children. The agency asserts that the Petitioner and did not accurately report their household income and their household income exceeded the program limit, resulting in the overpayment.   |
|---|
| The agency produced evidence of the Petitioner's reported income, the notices issued to the Petitioner and with the reporting requirements and the actual income of the household during the overpayment periods. For October 2018 and December 1, 2018 – February 29, 2020, the actual household income that should have been counted in determining the children's eligibility was consistently over the program limit. Neither the Petitioner nor reported to the agency when the income exceeded reporting requirements. The agency also produced evidence that employment was not accurately reported during application and renewals. |
| The agency produced evidence that the Petitioner re-applied for FS benefits on December 22, 2017, and reported employment with and and and are the Petitioner also had employment and income with beginning in September 2017 that was not reported until employment ended in March 2018.   |
| In addition, the agency's notice of decision issued to the Petitioner on January 2, 2018 informed her of the requirement to report to the agency if her household's gross monthly income exceeded \$2050. The employment verifications demonstrate that the Petitioner's household income exceeded this limit in every month of the overpayment period.   |
| Further, the agency produced evidence that was employed with beginning in December 2017, beginning in July 2018, beginning in August 2018, beginning in September 2018, beginning in October 2018 and beginning in November 2018. The evidence demonstrates the Petitioner or did did not report employment with until March 2018.  |
| In addition, when the Petitioner submitted a renewal in April 2018, she reported no changes in employment for the household. On May 22, 2018, the agency issued a notice of decision informing the Petitioner that her eligibility and allotment was determined based on her income from and She was required to report additional employment that had from at that time. There is no evidence that seminors or semployment and income was reported during this time.   |
| Further, the notice of decision from May 22, 2018 informed the Petitioner of the requirement to report to the agency if her household's monthly gross income exceeded \$2781.92. The evidence from employment and income verification demonstrates that the household income exceeded that limit in every month of the overpayment period.  |
| The agency produced evidence that in December 2018, the Petitioner completed a renewal and reported her employment with and and the evidence from employment verifications demonstrates that she also had employment and income with and the employment with and the during this period. In addition, and the employment with the evidence is no evidence that this employment and income was reported. Further, the evidence   |

establishes that the Petitioner's household income exceeded the reporting requirement of \$2451.67 in

each month of the overpayment period. This income was not reported.

| In June 2019, the Petitioner's completed a renewal and reported her employment with and and seemed and seemed and seemed. The agency's notice of decision issued on August 14, 2019 informed her that the agency determined her eligibility and allotment based on gross household income of \$2654.92 from her employment with and and seemed and see |
|---|
| The agency submitted evidence that also had employment with during this period. The evidence also indicates that the Petitioner was additionally employed with during this period. These various employers and incomes were not reported.   |
| In addition to exceeding the monthly income limits, the Petitioner and annual 's income exceeded the annual income limits for gap coverage for 2018, 2019 and 2020.   |
| As to the amount of the overpayment, the agency produced the Benefits Paid by MA reports for the relevant periods. There were months when the household income would have allowed for coverage for the children with a monthly premium. In those cases, the agency seeks to recover the amount of the premium that would have been applicable, if it is less than the MA benefits paid for the month.   |
| The Petitioner submitted no evidence to rebut the agency's evidence. Based on the evidence submitted, I conclude the agency correctly seeks to recover an overpayment of MA/BC+ benefits for the Petitioner's children for the period of October 2018 and December 1, 2018 – February 29, 2020 in the amount of \$7,009.36 for Claim #,   |
| <u>Claims for Petitioner for May 1, 2016 – July 31, 2016, May 1, 2017 – October 31, 2017, February 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018 and January 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019</u>  |
| The agency produced evidence that when the Petitioner applied for benefits in April 2016, she reported employment with  |
| At the time of the Petitioner's renewal in July 2016, she reported her employment with but did not report employment with or or   |
| In addition to unreported employment and income at the time of application and renewal, the agency produced evidence that the Petitioner's income exceeded the program limit in March 2016. The Petitioner  |

In addition to unreported employment and income at the time of application and renewal, the agency produced evidence that the Petitioner's income exceeded the program limit in March 2016. The Petitioner was required to report this to the agency by April 10, 2016. Had the Petitioner properly reported her income, she would not have been eligible for benefits.

The Petitioner completed a renewal in March 2017 and did not report any changes. The income information produced by agency demonstrates that her income continued to exceed the program limit from March 2017 through February 2020 except for April 2017. The Petitioner continued to inaccurately report employment and income during applications and renewals as noted in the section above discussing the liability for the children's benefits.

The agency produced the Benefits Paid by MA reports for the Petitioner for the overpayment periods to support the amount of the claims.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. The agency is authorized to recover an overissuance of MA/BC+ benefits from the Petitioner for Claim # and in the total amount of \$7,009.36.
- 2. The agency is authorized to recover an overissuance of MA/BC+ benefits from the Petitioner for Claim ## amount of \$13.177.94.

### THEREFORE, it is

## **ORDERED**

That the Petitioner's appeal is dismissed.

# REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received** within 20 days after the date of this decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 4822 Madison Yards Way 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important, or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

#### APPEAL TO COURT

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, **and** on those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST" **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 13th day of January, 2022

\s

Debra Bursinger Administrative Law Judge Division of Hearings and Appeals



### State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Brian Hayes, Administrator Suite 201 5005 University Avenue Madison, WI 53705-5400 Telephone: (608) 266-3096 FAX: (608) 264-9885 email: DHAmail@wisconsin.gov Internet: http://dha.state.wi.us

The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on January 13, 2022.

Public Assistance Collection Unit
Public Assistance Collection Unit
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability